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THE NEXT BIG THING?

WHY TEAM GREEN'S LEWIS HALL MIGHT JUST
BE OUR NEXT MOTOCROSS WORLD CHAMPION...

WE'RE GOING
HUSKY-NANAS!

2018 MX RANGE TESTED PLUS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS
WITH TWO OF THE BRAND'S LEADING BRITISH STARS...



AUGUST 2017 | £3.95



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ELLIOTT BANKS-BROWNE | WADE YOUNG | LEWIS TOMBS | STEVE HOLCOMBE

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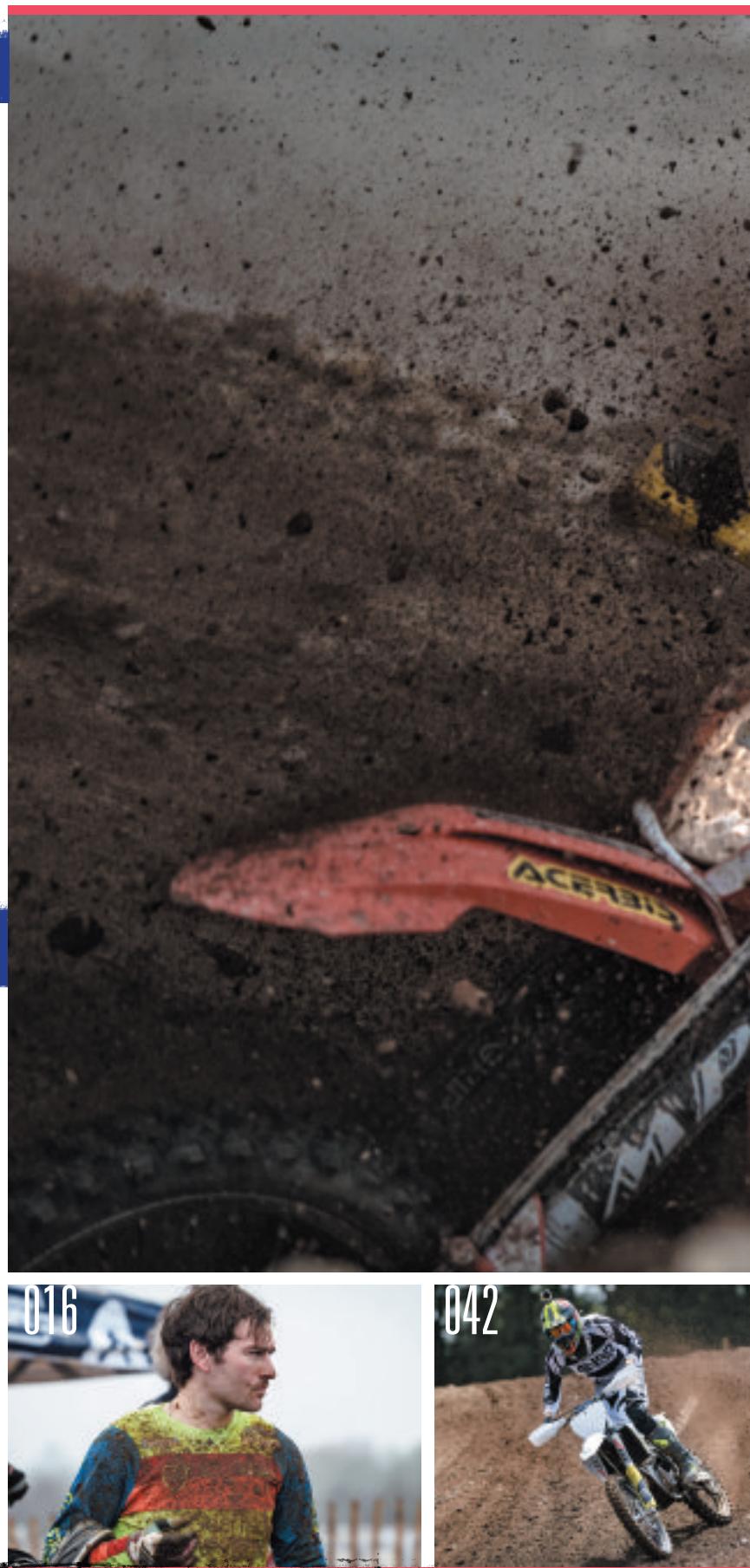
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ON THE COVER:

TEAM GREEN'S YOUNG RIPPER LEWIS HALL
© IAN CAIRNS

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DUDE'S FACE MEETS ROCKS IN ERZBERG MADNESS
© RED BULL CONTENT POOL

RYAN BANKS-BROWNE FORTYTWO

SINCE MOVING UP TO MX1 IN 2014 IT'S BEEN A LONG, HARD ROAD FOR ELLIOTT BANKS-BROWNE WITH A STRING OF INJURIES AND MACHINERY CHANGES KEEPING HIM CONSTANTLY ON THE BACK FOOT - BUT THAT WAS THEN AND THIS IS NOW...

Words by Sean Lawless Pictures by Nuno Laranjeira



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**WITH FIVE ABSOLUTE ROCKETS
IN THEIR 2018 RANGE IT'S NOT
INCONCEIVABLE TO THINK THAT
HUSQVARNA MOTOCROSS
MACHINES WILL DOMINATE ALL
CLASSES NEXT YEAR...**

Words by Ryan 'not Reynolds' Houghton
Pictures by Nuno Laranjeira

It's mid-season here in the UK, blazing hot for once and the world's motocross manufacturers are already beginning to roll out next year's gear for us to drool over and tempt us into spending the kid's Christmas present money that the missus has so tenderly put away.

First up for me this year in the bike test arena is the all-new – but very much the same – Husqvarna MX range. Usually the test fraternity would be smashing a plane journey out to Yankeeville or Pizzaland but this month we're all pulling up to that British practice staple that is Motoland in Mildenhall. Many a lap has been thrashed around here over the years but it still provides a decent surface for the new bikes to be put through their paces.

The 2017 Huskies were a very strong bike so this year the powers that be have decided to launch the 2018 models with an 'if it ain't broke don't fix it' kind of approach. Now this approach is very difficult to argue with as the white bikes are becoming more prevalent in the Maxxis, GP and AMA race series and now overall victories and championships are starting to come Husqvarna's way after 20-odd trophy-less years. They have made some minor front fork changes which to be honest weren't really noticeable and the plastics have had some minor alterations.

A new Li-Ion 2.2 Ah battery for 2018 offers a consistent energy output. All the four-strokes come standard with electric starters. Along with the benefits of easy starting, the use of Li-Ion batteries also allows significant weight saving. >>

ITALIAN STALLION

**ALESSANDRO PUZAR WOWS THE TIFOSI
WITH AN EPIC CHARGE THROUGH THE PACK
AT MAGGIORA IN 1990!**

Words and photos by Jack Burnicle

Italian race fans always turn out in huge numbers to hail their heroes and in his home grand prix at Trentino, Tony Cairoli rewarded them with one of the great racing recoveries after being planted on the deck in the first corner. Last place to second rescued a memorable 79th grand prix victory for the spectacular Sicilian. And 27 years earlier his spiritual predecessor was performing remarkably similar heroics in the 1990 Italian 250GP...

Cairoli was a (presumably toothy!) little four year-old venturing forth on his first motorcycle, an Italjet 50, when round two of the world championship arrived at Maggiora, that magnificent edifice north of Milan, at the opposite end of the country from Cairoli's island home.

The opening exchange had taken place at Schwanenstadt in Austria and been dominated by Alessandro Puzar – a tigerish series rookie fresh from failing to nail the 1989 125 title. That honour went to his Italian-based Louisiana pal Trampas Parker, who also moved up into 250s with Puzar.

The pair went one-two in Austria but it was Puzar who won both motos for Chesterfield Suzuki – a team set up by his mentor Michele Rinaldi. Another Italian, Michele Fanton (Suzuki) finished third overall ahead of Davey Strijbos (Kawasaki), Peter Johansson (Yamaha) and German number one Roland 'the Rat' Diepold (Kawasaki – nickname courtesy of Kevin Froud!).

Something of a gypsy, with a mane of dark hair and carefree attitude Sandro Puzar, the man they called 'Crazy Horse', ensured that an enormous army of Italian tifosi descended on Maggiora on April 29 for round two of the world championship. An impressive 40-strong field gathered on the vast start straight that blazing hot afternoon, the majestic valley carpeted with the hum of 40,000 expectant voices excitedly anticipating the first moto.

Puzar dutifully obliged with a scalding holeshot. But it lasted only as far as the apex of the hairpin left first turn, where he promptly washed out the front wheel and fell to a massive gasp of disbelief! >>

The whole valley wills on Puzar as he catches fourth placed Rob Herring

NSW



HOLCOMBE'S RUN!

**STEVE HOLCOMBE
HAS THE ENDUROGP
WORLD TITLE FIRMLY
IN HIS SIGHTS AND IS
DOING ALL HE CAN TO
CHASE IT DOWN...**

Words and photos by Future7media







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DAN MUNDELL

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